

King George Public School

www.kgs.atnet.ca

Tom Smith
Principal



Deb Skoretz
Vice Principal

From the Principal's Desk

November 2011

Dear Parents,

As we move into November there is a lot to say about how the school year has begun. Overall we have much good news. Our school population is higher than it has been in years. Our full day every day kindergarten program has 75 students and three classes. Our school population was so strong that we received 1.5 new teachers in mid-October. That resulted in the reorganization of the school from grade 1 – 5, reducing our combined grades in that range from 4 to 1. I am happy to announce that Miss Tara Yantzi has taken on the new 4/5 class and Mr. Nick Iliopoulos has returned to the school as half-time relief teacher. Our EQAO results from last June were up in every category and the Camp SAIL program from August helped to set up many of our primary students for success this year. In other words, things have been happening!

Inevitably, with all this activity, some things become issues. Our increased population has resulted in even more problems with parking, especially at the beginning and end of the day. To that end we have requested two things from the city. One is a request, suggested by a parent, to have a second crossing guard placed on the Rawdon St-Sheridan St. corner. This is currently under investigation and we should hear the results in the next month or so. The other request was to supervise and adjust the parking situation around the building. Since we have more teachers, the space available in the two church parking lots is taken up. We therefore request that no parents enter the two church lots at any time, particularly at the beginning or end of the day. I have met with a representative of the Parking Authority and we are looking to change the signage around the school to make some more spaces available for parents. In addition, we continue to ask that parents walk students to school, or park a block away to allow them to walk

a bit, or contact the school to set up a Walking School Bus program (where volunteer parents escort groups of students to and from school). Once the new signage is approved by the city, possibly by the end of November, we will be providing parents with a map of places to park and clear definitions of the signage. Hopefully these two efforts will improve student safety and provide parents with reasonable alternatives to the parking issues.

Each year schools are required to have a minimum of 6 fire drills, three before and three after Christmas. So far we have completed the three fire drills but have not yet completed the lockdown drill. We have decided that our lockdown drill for this half of the year will be some time on Thursday, November 24. In this drill students will be required to gather in specific areas in their classes or elsewhere in an effort to protect themselves from a fictional intruder or threat. Clearly we do not ever expect to have to deal with such a situation for real, but it is prudent to prepare for the unexpected just in case. We let you know the selected date in advance so you will not be alarmed when your child comes home with news of the drill.

Don't forget to check out the calendar for all the events coming this month. Please also remember that our Feedback form is there for you to let us know how you feel about what is happening at the school.

Respectfully,

Tom Smith
Principal

**Turn your clocks back one hour
before going to bed Sunday night!**



Calendar of Events

November 2011

Nov. 1: Attendance Assembly
School Council Meeting
6:30-8:00 PM in the school library

Nov. 2: Grade 8s Tour PJ

Nov. 3: Grade 3 Swimming

Nov. 4 Apps Mill—Mrs. Davis Gr. 2
& Mrs. Janes Gr. 4
Jack Grunsky—Mrs. Erb Gr. 1,
Mrs Clarke Gr. 1, Mrs. Boswell Gr. 3

Nov. 7: Apps Mill—Mrs. Pitts Gr. 2
& Ms. Yantzi Gr. 4/5

Nov. 8: Apps Mill—Mrs. Miedema Gr. 6
& Miss. MacMillan Gr. 6

Nov. 10—Remembrance Day Ceremony
with Veteran Bill Minnery AM

Nov. 16: Tollgate Tech Tour Gr. 7 & 8
Puss in Boots —Kindergartens, Mrs. Davis,
Mrs. Michael, Mrs. Janes & Ms. Yantzi

Nov. 17: Grade 3 Swimming
Immunizations—Grades 7 & 8

Nov. 18: Progress Reports go home

Nov. 23: Picture Retakes

Nov. 24: Parent Teacher Interviews—evening

Nov. 25: PA Day—No school for students
Parent Teacher Interviews—morning

Nov. 30: Rick Hanson Relay comes to Brantford
—Mr Smith has be chosen as medal runner (approx.
1:00 pm). Mr. Lawless is on leave assisting with this
project!

Dec. 6:
School Council 6:30 PM in school library

Student Activities

Terry Fox Run

A great big thanks goes out to our staff and students for raising over \$600 this year for the Annual Terry Fox Run. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Skoretz dressed as clowns for a day in recognition of this extraordinary effort!



Winners (all students who contributed had their names entered in a draw) of the Terry Fox t-shirts were: Adam W., Justin L., Amanda J., Chris W., and Milana O.

Cross Country

This year's team members were: Joel H., Owen B., Sara E., Jenna C., Natasha H., Danisha D., Broden C., Ahmad H., Jaidyn H., Bryce N.-B., Owen B., Mackenzie L., Jade H., Angela S. A., Kayla J., Delaney G. They represented King George well in various events this fall. Our best finishers were Joel (32nd out of 144 intermediate boys) and Ahmad (32nd out of 257 junior boys). We will start to run again in March to get ready for the Brantford Classic Run and Track and Field.

School Council News.....

Pop Can Drive: Our students are doing an incredible job supporting the **Pop Can Drive** and we appreciate everyone's initiative! Please remember to rinse and crush cans if possible and label with child's room number or teacher's name.

Note: We have noticed some very enthusiastic parents and students pulling pop cans from blue boxes on their way to school. It has been brought to our attention that once cans go into blue boxes at the curb, they become the property of the Recycling Company contracted by The City of Brantford. We are asking parents and students to stop doing this and instead, ask if people would save them for you in a bag that you can pick up on your way to school.

Early Morning Meal Program- A Couple of Changes: We are working on getting more students involved helping with our program due to the interest shown by our children! Also, we have decided to put our snack bins out in between 1st and 2nd Nutrition Breaks so students have the opportunity to eat from their lunches first.

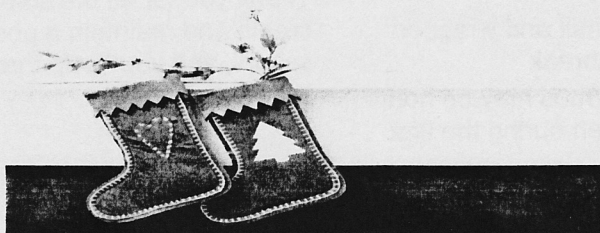
Due to the increase in food prices and our very hungry children, (it seems this year), we are asking parents to continue sending full lunches for their children when possible, so that the snack we serve will act as an extra snack to keep everyone full throughout the day.

Crunch Day for Brant United Way: Brant Food For Thought is challenging all School Nutrition Programs to hold a "**Crunch Day**" for **Brant Food for Thought's Brant United Way Campaign**. To support this Campaign, we are asking every student to donate \$0.25 towards their snack on **November 16th**. Brant United Way is a huge funder to Food For Thought, which in turn grants money to School Nutrition Programs.

Volunteers needed for our Annual **Christmas Gift Wrap** at Lynden Park mall on **Thursday, December 1st** from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If interested, please phone school and leave message at office. Our participation will count towards our expected fundraising goal of \$8,000.00. So far, we have received a grant from Breakfast for Learning for \$2,500.00 that will also count towards our fundraising efforts.

More Council News... Due to the growing number of staff and Student Teachers at King George School, we are asking that all Parent Volunteers, although greatly appreciated for everything they do, refrain from using the staff room during both Nutrition Breaks. This will allow teachers enough space to eat their lunch and provide a private place to relax.

Watch for news about our **Family Christmas Night** in December and remember **School Council's Annual Raffle Draws** on the same night. Raise money for our school and possibly be the winner of some wonderful prizes! **Ticket Price \$5.00 for card of 25 tickets.**

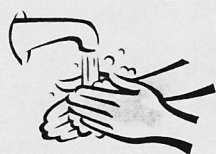


This Cold and Flu Season, be a Germ Stopper!!

The flu (influenza) and the common cold are infections that are caused by viruses. They are spread through the air by coughing or sneezing or by touching someone or something that is infected with the virus (such as a pen).

This cold and flu season, stop germs in their tracks!! Protect yourself and your children by following these easy steps:

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds **or** alcohol based hand sanitizer, especially before eating and preparing food and after wiping a nose and toilet use. Hand sani-



tizers are as effective as hand washing with soap and water, as long as your hands are not visibly dirty

Cough or sneeze into your sleeve and do not to share food, drinks or eating utensils with others

Get the flu vaccine yearly – it's recommended for most people over six months of age. Book appointments with your healthcare provider or the Brant County Health Unit by visiting www.bchu.org or calling 519-753-4937 ext. 446

Eat healthy, be active and get enough sleep to build a strong immune system

Keep your child at home if he/she is not feeling well enough to participate in normal activities. This will help stop the spread of germs to others.

Nutrition Tidbits...Balanced School Day Tips:



It doesn't matter which foods your children choose to eat at break, it's more important that they eat different types of foods throughout the day.

- Sandwiches can be cut in half and wrapped separately – one half for each break
- Foods that are put in a thermos may be hotter and taste better if they are eaten during the first break
- Cold foods like juice and yogurt can be put in a freezer for a few hours to help them stay cold to the second break

Feedback Feedback

Thank you to all the parents who sent back Feedback Forms last month. We had a larger number than usual and some very useful commentary. The winner of the Feedback Draw for this month is Tanisha in Miss Harper's class.

We received a number of very positive comments about the school yard, the snack program, our efforts to support students at the school and the quality of our teachers. Thank you for the positive feedback.

There were also a few questions and suggestions. The commentary about parking and patrols was responded to in the opening letter. One comment about older (high school) students who are probably picking up their siblings and smoking in and around the school is a valid point. I also see parents smoking at times as well. We do have officially, a smoke free environment. Our hope is that all visitors would refrain from smoking on or near the school. As of yet, we have not developed a consistent way to deal with this. I would ask parents who see it happening either to calmly ask them to put it out or, if you don't feel comfortable about doing that, please try to identify the person and let us know. We can then follow it up.

One parent asked if it was possible for their child to go home during first nutrition break. We routinely do not allow this, primarily because that is the time when teams and clubs usually operate. In specific cases, with parental agreement, this can be done.

A couple of comments talked about the use of the playground. Kindergarten students usually end their day outside and they have full access. We do split the students into two large groups so the younger students are together during nutrition breaks and the older students are at a different time. Inevitably some pushing occurs. We do monitor this, but can't catch it all the time. We do have sufficient supervisors, so students do have to learn to come to them.

Thank you for all the comments. We do strive to create and maintain a positive environment at the school, and your help through communication is welcome.